

Hobbies

Rarities, exhibits and collectibles will be found at the 'World's Fair of Money'

By Roger Boye

A museum's worth of gold, silver and other money-related collectibles will go on display Aug. 13-18 at the American Numismatic Association's 100th anniversary convention in suburban Rosemont.

Visitors to what is being called the "World's Fair of Money" will be treated to 525 cases of exhibits and a convention midway with live demonstrations. Some of the items to be in Rosemont—such as an 1804 U.S. silver dollar—rank among the hobby's greatest rarities.

The event will be in an area nearly as large as a football field, Exhibit Halls B and D of the Rosemont-O'Hare Exposition Center, 5555 N. River Road. In all, about 160 persons or companies will exhibit items such as:

- One of five known 1913 Liberty-head nickels and one of 15 known 1804 silver dollars, each

worth nearly \$1 million.

- Samples from what may be the finest collection of U.S. proof gold coins ever formed. The 30 items bound for Rosemont—worth an estimated \$10 million—include a 1907 Saint-Gaudens \$20 gold piece with extremely high relief.

- Historic documents relating to numismatics, each signed by a president. In one display, Thomas Jefferson's autograph adorns an act of Congress authorizing money for the hiring of U.S. Mint workers. The hoard also includes documents signed by Abraham Lincoln.

- A complete collection of U.S. silver and gold commemorative coinage with holders, correspondence and other artifacts associated with the money. Author and coin dealer Q. David Bowers is using the collection, owned by his company, as the basis of a book on commemorative coins.

- Perhaps the finest set of U.S.

"Morgan" silver dollars ever assembled, an assortment of nearly 170 rarities. The display boards, which expose both sides of the coins, cost about \$150,000 to build.

The center's Exhibit Hall B will house the convention midway with 17 hands-on displays or live demonstrations. Exhibitors include:

- The U.S. Secret Service on detecting counterfeit paper money, with displays of archival material.

- The U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing on the operation of the so-called Spider Press once used to print paper money, with a "billion-dollar display" of rare currency.

- The Chicago Federal Reserve Bank on its role in the nation's monetary system.

- The American Bank Note Co. on the art of engraving, with on-site creation of metal dies and displays of completed printing

plates.

- The American Holographic Co. on how holograms are made.

- The United States Mint, with an engraver on site.

- The British Royal Mint, with an actor using hammer and dies to strike medals to be given to visitors.

- The Portuguese Mint, with a walk-through exhibit, "The Age of Discovery," and a free 18-page booklet produced for the conven-

tion.

Convention hours are noon until 7 p.m. on Aug. 13, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Aug. 14-16, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Aug. 17 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 18. Admission is free to the convention midway, exhibits, educational programs and bourse, although visitors must register in the North Lobby of the Rosemont-O'Hare Exposition Center, outside of Exhibit Hall A.